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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Burgess *et al.*  
SERIAL NUMBER: 09/730,617 EXAMINER: Pamela G. Holbrook  
FILING DATE: December 5, 2000 ART UNIT: 1647  
FOR: NOVEL PROTEINS AND NUCLEIC ACIDS ENCODING THE SAME

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as set forth below.

*In the Claims:*

Cancel claims 4-55.

Replace pending claims 1-3 with the following amended claims:

Priority  
12/6/99

1-3 Burgess,  
56-68 et al

1. (Amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

B1 2. (Amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of a variant of SEQ ID NO:4.

3. (Amended) The polypeptide of claim 2, wherein said variant comprises an amino acid sequence that is the translation of a nucleic acid sequence differing by a single nucleotide from the nucleic acid sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:3.

Add the following new claims:

B2 56. (New) The polypeptide of claim 2, wherein no more than 10% of the amino acid residues of said polypeptide differ from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.